

Application No. 10/788,880
Amendment Dated 02/07/2005
Reply to Office Action of 11/05/2004

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments to the claims indicated above and the following remarks.

Claims 1-68 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Grabbe et al. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5-10 and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Harper, Jr. et al. It also appears as if the Examiner has rejected claims 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 33-39, 44, 46-48, 53-55, 57-62, 64 and 66 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Grabbe, Harper and McHugh. The Examiner does states that claims 11, 12, 19-23, 26, 27, 29, 32, 40-43, 45, 49-52, 56, 63, 65, 67 and 68 each include allowable subject matter. With respect to the rejections of the pending claims, the Applicants respectfully disagree for the reasons set forth below. In order to proceed quickly to issuance, Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 6, 33, and 57 and canceled claims 2 and 3.

The Rejection of Claim 1

Claim 1 stands rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by both Harper and Grabbe. Applicants have amended claim 1 in order to clarify the invention for which protection is being sought. Specifically, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 3, as filed, into claim 1. Applicants assert claim 1 as written is allowable

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over the cited prior art. (Applicants have also canceled claims 2 and 3 and amended claims 4 and 6 to now depend from claim 1 rather than claim 2, thereby ensuring proper antecedent basis in the claims.)

The Examiner rejected claim 3 based upon Harper under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and also determined that claim 3 is novel over Grabbe. For the reasons set forth immediately below, applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of claim 3 because Harper does not teach all of the limitations recited in originally filed claim 1.

As originally filed, Claim 3 ultimately depended from claim 1. Original claim 1 claimed an LGA instrument comprising, in part, a contact assembly comprising "at least one metal contact and an insulative member, said insulative member being positioned in" an aperture formed in the substrate. As shown in Figure 8C of Harper, insulative member 243 (using the characterization of the Examiner) is not positioned within apertures of the substrate. Rather, component 243 is sandwiched between an upper conductive shield and a lower conductive shield. See Harper, col. 4, ll. 15-28 and Figure 8C. Component 243 is not positioned within an aperture and thus, Harper does not anticipate claim 1.

In Summary, Applicants believe claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art. Claim 1 includes the limitations of claim 3, indicated by the Examiner as allowable over Grabbe. In addition, claim 1 also requires the insulative member be located within an aperture of the substrate, a

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limitation not taught by Harper. Thus, Claim 1 is allowable over the prior art. Moreover, as pending claims 4-32 also ultimately depend from claim 1, Applicants believe these claims are also allowable over the cited prior art.

The Rejection of Claim 33

Claim 33 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 based upon Grabbe and Harper in combination with McHugh. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. In order to quickly proceed to issuance, however, Applicants have amended claim 33 in order to more clearly define the claimed invention.

Claim 33 now requires a first contact portion of a first of a plurality of contact assemblies to face the first contact portion of a second of the plurality of contact assemblies. Harper, Grabbe and McHugh all fail to teach this limitation. McHugh does not disclose contact assemblies, and Harper and Grabbe teach contact assemblies orientated and facing in a single direction. Since the prior art fails to teach this claim limitation, Applicants believe claim 33 is allowable over the cited references. Moreover, as claims 34-56 all ultimately depend from claim 33, Applicants also believe these claims are allowable over the prior art.

The Rejection of Claim 57

Claim 57 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based upon the combination of Grabbe, Harper and McHugh. Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. In

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order to proceed more quickly to issuance, however, Applicants have amended claim 57 adding the step of affixing the metal contacts to the substrate with cold forming.

Grabbe teaches creating a connector 10 by placing the contact modules 20 in openings 26 of a holder 18 and frictionally holding the modules 20 therein. See Grabbe, col. 5, ll. 28-30. Harper also teaches frictional engagement to secure the mounting sections 25 to the pegs 29 of plate 31, stating specifically "the mounting sections 25 can form compression, friction engagement with the pegs 29." See Harper, col. 3, ll. 13-14. Thus, Grabbe and Harper both fail to teach utilizing cold forming to attach the metal contacts to the substrate. McHugh also fails to disclose using cold forming to connect the metal contact to the substrate.

Since Grabbe, Harper and McHugh fail to teach the utilization of cold forming to connect the metal contact to the substrate, Applicants believe the method recited in claim 57 is allowable over the cited references. Moreover, as claims 58-68 each ultimately depend from claim 57, Applicants also believe these claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request passage to issuance.

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The Examiner mailed the present Office Action on November 5, 2004. Accordingly, the three-month date for response falls on Saturday, February 5, 2005. This response is being mailed the next Monday, February 7, 2005, and accordingly, Applicants believe no extension of time is necessary. If necessary to affect a timely response, please consider this paper a request for an extension of time, and charge any shortages in fees, or apply any overpayment credits, to Baker & Daniels' Deposit Account No. 02-0387 (72249.90020). However, please do not include the payment of issue fees.

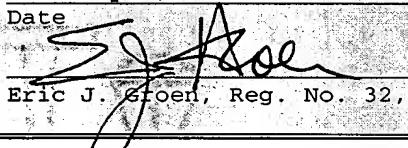
Respectfully submitted,



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<u>February 7, 2005</u>	
Date	
	
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